(b) the number of educated youth passing out from the colleges and universities in the State who are in search of job, during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken so far, by Government to provide employment to the edcuated unemployed persons/youths of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The number of educated (Xth and above standard) job-seekers registered with the Employment Exchange in Madhya Pradesh as on December 1999, 2000 & 2001 was of the order of 14.1, 13.8 and 14.5 lakh respectively.

(b) All the educated youth passing out from the colleges and universities in the state may not necessarily be seeking employment through employment exchanges. However, the number of educated (Xth and above standard) job-seekers, all of whom are not necessary unemployed, who got themselves registered in the Employment Exchanges in Madhya Pradesh during 1999, 2000 & 2001 was of the order of 3.1, 2.4 and 3.5 lakh respectively.

(c) Employment generation is part of the five-year plans. The approach to the Tenth Plan focusses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of the 10th Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

In addition, Government is implementing Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana to provide employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth in both rural and urban areas. These measures will help both educated and uneducated unemployed persons throghout the country.

Pitiable conditions of salt labourers

5334. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment are aware of the pitiable condition of labourers working in the field of salt in the coastal areas;

(b) the maximum average age and emoluments/service conditions of these workers;

(c) the common diseases afflicting these workers;

(d) whether Government intend to promote necessary health care schemes to them through NGOs; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (e) Most of the salt workers numbering about 1 lakh are concentrated mainly in the coastal areas of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu in addition to desert areas of Rajasthan & Gujarat. The salt season is mainly from September/October to May/June every year. During the remaining period, salt workers are normally employed in agriculture & otheroccupations. No data is available on maximum average age of salt worker. Amongst other, the inter State Migrant Workers Act, 1979 & the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 are applicable to the salt workers. The rate of minimum wages of semi skilled/salt pan workers fixed in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu is Rs. 97.40 and Rs. 70.46 per day respectively. The occupational health problems are mainly related to skin and eyes, but other common diseases are not diffeent from those living in similar socio-economic conditions. Gum boots and sun glasses are provided by most of the employers to protect the workers from these diseases, besides providing temporary shelters at the worksites. Besides, the Salt Commissioner, Government of India who is running various schemes for the benefit of salt workers such as that relating to drinking water, some of the Stae Governments are also running schemes such as Group Insurance Schemes for salt pan workers, Balwadis, Kacha/pucca Quarter scheme, eye camps, health camps, etc. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Labour to extend assistance to salt workers through NGOs.

National Child Labour Project Centres

5335. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Child Labour Projects Centres setup by Government so far to rehabilitate the Children;